

Remarks

Claims 1 through 20 are now pending.

Various of the claims have been amended in response to the Examiner's objections.

The Rejection

The following patents have been relied upon to reject various of the Applicants' claims:

	<u>U.S. Patents</u>
6,071,995	Labauze
5,672,639	Corvasce, et al. (Corvasce)

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

Claims 1 through 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious in view of Labauze taken in view of the acknowledged prior art and further in view of Corvasce.

A reconsideration of the rejection of the Applicants' claims based upon 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) is requested in view of comments herein.

It is believed that the Examiner's objections under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, have been remedied by appropriate amendments.

The Invention

It is important to appreciate that the Applicants' invention relates to a tire having a component comprised of SBR's which includes a functionalized SBR (SBR-2) which contains a silicon atom within the elastomer and pendent silanol and/or siloxy groups therefrom as a part of the elastomer chain to thereby divide the elastomer into at least two segments.

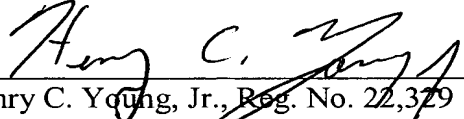
Discussion

It appears that the Labauze reference (Column 4, Lines 33 etc.) relate to the use of functionalized diene polymers which have at the end of the chain a silanol function or a polysiloxane block.

It further appears that Labauze does not teach or suggest the Applicants' required functionalized SBR which contains a silicon atom within the elastomer.

Accordingly, it is contended that a prima facie case of obviousness of the Applicants' claims is not made out the Labauze reference, whether or not combined with the Corvasce reference, in the sense of 35 U.S. C. Section 103(a) without reconstructing the Lebauze reference and without undue experimentation with the result being uncertain.

Respectfully submitted,


Henry C. Young, Jr., Reg. No. 22,379
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Intellectual Property Law Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-2956